



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly : _12_ / _15_ / 21_ Start Time: (Commence): 7PM

Location: Zoom & Community Room, Robert Miller Community & Recreation Center

Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:04 PM

Note taker: Sam Heinrichs

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeff Clark
Eric Corbman
Evan Litwin
Jenna O'Donnell
Matt Hurlburt
Jeff Comstock
Olivia Taylor

Discussion Topics

- 7:00 - 7:05 Ground Rules and Announcements
- 7:05 - 7:13 Elected Officials
- 7:13 - 7:20 Burlington Police Commission
- 7:20 - 7:30 Burlington Parks and Recreation
- 7:30 - 7:40 Burlington Police Department
- 7:40 - 7:50 Burlington Community Justice Center
(a CEDO Department)
- 7:50 - 8:20 Q&A with Guest Presenters
- 8:20 - 8:50 Community Conversation
- 8:50 - 9:00 Wrap-up
- 9:00 Adjourn

Actions Taken / Decisions Made

- *Immediately following Agenda Item*
- *Generally includes: electing a new steering committee member, voting as a body to send a formal communication to the City, decisions to spend money.*
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Agenda Items and Actions:

Please Remember to Enter Adjournment Time!

7:00 - 7:05 Ground Rules and Announcements

Evan Litwin laid out the ground rules for the meeting as well as good etiquette for participants. He also announced Ward 4 CBDG advisory board opening.

7:05 - 7:13 Elected Officials

Sarah Carpenter: Kahoots Crisis Intervention Program is still in the works for Burlington. It will need some funding from the state. Homeless Crisis: what are the correct options for the city to pursue? Using flexible ARPA money is something that the city should pursue.

School Board REP: Urges public to be vaccinated and to follow COVID guidelines in order to stay safe. The School Board is looking forward to having students back on a campus on institute road. There are many challenges with the old buildings that makes it not worth reinvesting in that campus. An architect firm has been hired to start designing a new campus.

7:13 - 7:20 Burlington Police Commission

Brief Overview of the Commission

Shireen Hart: These are her personal views. Shireen gave a brief rundown on how the commission works and operates. They recently engaged NACOLE (a civilian oversight system for police departments). The commission has to look independent otherwise people do not trust their judgement. Police Department is actively working on recommendations that came after the murder of George Floyd. Body cam footage from the Department will become public once they have hired someone to redact private information from the footage.

7:20 - 7:30 Burlington Parks and Recreation

Aaron Miro: Urban Park Rangers are a new position within the department. Two full time members as well as seasonal staff with the intention of being active in all the parks to improve quality of life in the parks. Dealing with small unwanted behavior such as dogs off leash, fireworks, fires on the beaches.

7:30 - 7:40 Burlington Police Department Community Service Officer Program & Community Support Liaison Program

Lacey Smith Community Affairs Liaison: Also known as the City's social worker. Reactive and Proactive work. Building relationships with the community to help prevent future incidents.

Sgt. Vincent Ross: Community Support Officer responsibilities include animal complaints, VIN identification, noninvestigative crashes, enforce city quality of life ordinances, noise complaints. It used to work from 10-8 but now there are 2 shifts 1 from 7-4 and 4-2. This part of the department is hoping to expand to 12 people.

7:40 - 7:50 Burlington Community Justice Center CJC Programs and Services Overview

Rachel Jolly: This is the oldest CJC in VT. This is also a Court Diversion Agency in Burlington. They address the roots of crime within Burlington by using restorative principles to help repair the damage done in the community. This is also a proactive and reactive department in order to both build community and repair harm.

7:50 - 8:20 Q&A with Guest Presenters

Question: Lots of protesting in 2020 how have their demands been met or unmet?

A: The department has made strides to address the 151 recommendations from a CNA report. A lot of the delay was from waiting on the report to come out. There has been a decrease in Police officer numbers but there has been a slower increase in other positions that can help fill the gap.

Question: What is available for smaller theft cases for the person who is affected? Parallel Justice for Victims of crime is a program that offers a variety of services from just listening to the victim or referral to even a fund to help the victim in the future.

Question: Obstacles to hiring CLS and CSO?

A: CSLs are stable so funding is the only big issue holding more back. A: CSOs are having issues much like the rest of the state with labor shortages.

Question: If CSOs could be employed in noncriminal traffic enforcement?

A: Because of the dangers associated with traffic stops it wouldn't be safe for them to do so. They can assist in enforcing traffic.

Question: Is it true that there is no School Resource Officer because of the lack of police? Essentially yes as well as the fact that the officer would only be assigned to the school and could not do anything else.

8:20 - 8:50 Community Conversation

Church St needs consistent Community Service Officers.

There is an idea that anti-police brutality means you are anti-police and we need to move past that ASAP.

If the Ranger program is a success hopefully it can be expanded to help make our public spaces safer.

The city is concerned about recruiting staff throughout the departments.

Lots of concern about reckless driving throughout the north end.

8:50 - 9:00 Wrap-up

9:00 Adjourn